

they have presumably been saving for the apocalypse and only take out the weapons if “the zombies start to appear.”

I appreciate Mr. Chipman’s long service as an ATF special agent, but I have serious concerns that, as the head of the ATF, he would spend more time going after law-abiding gun owners than actual criminals.

The fact that he spent years as a gun control advocate gives us a pretty strong indication of what his priorities are likely to be if he ends up heading this Bureau. While Mr. Chipman couldn’t make new gun laws as head of the ATF, he would certainly—I should say he could certainly have a hand in writing a whole lot of new regulations, regulations that could end up substantially burdening Americans’ Second Amendment rights.

ATF has already gotten away with the Biden gun control agenda with proposed rules against firearms parts kits often used by hobbyists and widely used stabilizing braces, often referred to as pistol braces, first designed to help a disabled veteran safely fire a weapon. These regulations would turn millions of legal gun owners into potential criminals, and David Chipman would be in charge of seeing them through.

Moreover, his demeaning attitude toward gun owners should also disqualify him from the ATF position. An individual who regards law-abiding, gun-owning Americans as a bunch of untrained and irresponsible doomsday preppers waiting for the zombie apocalypse has no business—no business—leading a gun enforcement Agency.

The President, the Vice President, and Mr. Chipman may not like it, but the plain language of the Bill of Rights clearly guarantees the right of law-abiding Americans to own firearms. That right, like every other right guaranteed by our Constitution, must be respected and protected, and those who exercise their Second Amendment rights deserve to be respected as well.

I do not believe we can rely on Mr. Chipman to respect our Second Amendment rights or the Americans who exercise them, which is why I cannot vote to confirm him as Director of the ATF. I encourage supporters of the Second Amendment on both sides of the aisle to oppose his nomination. Law-abiding, gun-owning Americans deserve better than Mr. Chipman to handle the ATF.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

#### NOMINATION OF JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, you know, this pandemic has made it clearer than ever that our economy is working great for those at the very top but not for our workers.

Saturday actually marks the 12th anniversary of the last time that we raised our Federal minimum wage. Twelve years. That is unacceptable, and our workers really deserve better.

No one working 40 hours a week should be making wages so low, their family is living in poverty and they can’t even afford to pay for even their most basic needs. It is past time that we finally give workers, who are the backbone of our economy and have kept us going through this pandemic, a hard-earned and much deserved raise.

Another important step the Senate can take to build back an economy that is stronger and fairer and works for everyone is to ensure that Agencies like the National Labor Relations Board work effectively and protect workers’ rights. Jennifer Abruzzo is the type of dedicated public servant who will make sure the NLRB is enforcing the law and protecting the rights of workers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her as general counsel of the NLRB. She has dedicated her career to upholding the law and protecting workers from unfair treatment. She has won victories against companies that attempted to undermine workers’ right to organize and call for better wages. She has 23 years of experience at the NLRB, including her time serving as acting general counsel, the role she is now nominated to fill.

It is clear she has the right experience, qualifications, and values for the job, and we need her to be able to get to work right away because we have seen 7 years of—we have seen years of unprecedented Republican obstruction of the NLRB nominees. There has been an empty Democratic seat on the NLRB for nearly 3 years, and there wasn’t a single Democrat on the Board from late 2019 to mid-2020. That obstruction tipped the scales of justice in favor of big corporations, and workers have suffered the consequences.

When workers stand together to form a union, it is the NLRB that makes sure the election is fair. If a worker is fired or unfairly punished because they want to join or form a union, the NLRB is tasked with protecting their rights. If companies refuse to negotiate fairly with unions fighting for higher wages and better benefits or a secure retirement or safer working conditions, it is the NLRB that protects unions and union workers who have helped build our country’s middle class.

Working families simply cannot afford an NLRB that fails to protect workers’ rights when they are threatened. So we have to confirm nominees like Jennifer Abruzzo who will protect workers’ rights and make sure their voices are heard if we are serious about building back a stronger, fairer economy. If we are serious about standing with working families, then we need to confirm Jennifer Abruzzo as general counsel of the NLRB and then get to work increasing our Federal minimum wage.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled to occur at 11:30 a.m. begin immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Abruzzo nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Abruzzo nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

#### NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The nomination was confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the provision of the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will immediately be notified of the Senate’s action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the